



# *Could the SDGs help save wetlands?*

**By Jane Madgwick, Chief Executive Officer, Wetlands International**

**And Chris Dickens, IMWI**

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# Already over planetary boundaries

**Rockström (2009):**

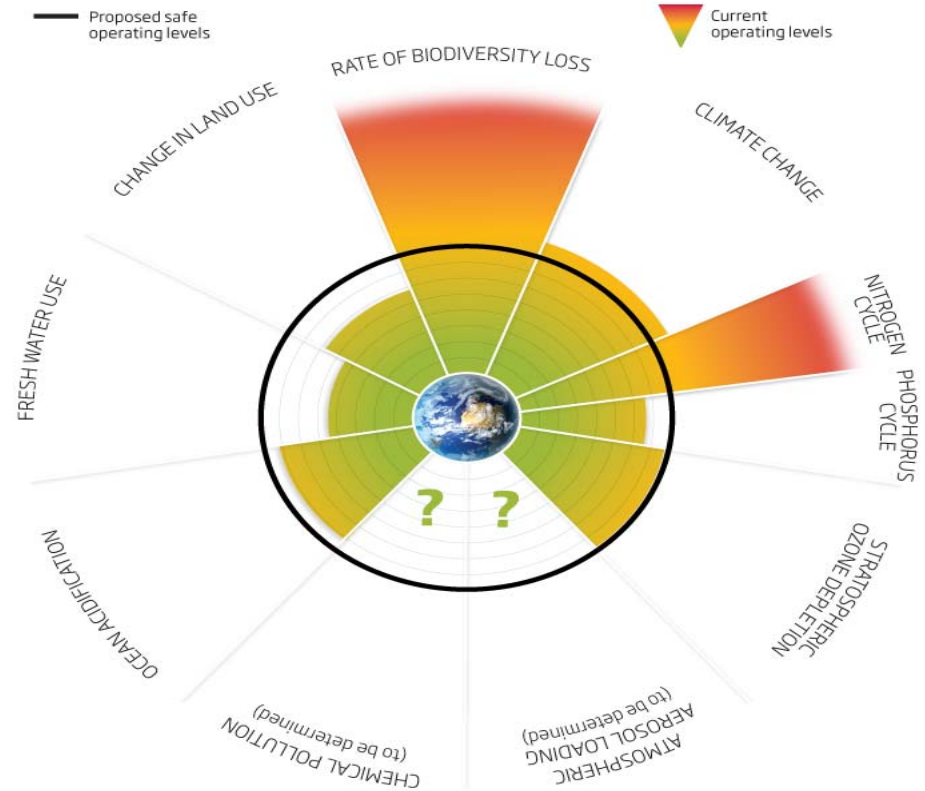
“business as usual” is  
not an option

**Rockström & Raworth  
(2013):** joined up  
social and  
environmental  
solutions needed

## Beyond the boundaries

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We have already overstepped three of nine planetary boundaries and are at grave risk of transgressing several others



# Universal action: Sustainable Development Goals





# But, natural capital is the bottom line





**1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**

**Goal 1**

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

**Goal 2**

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

**Goal 8**

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**Goal 9**

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

**Goal 10**

Reduce inequality within and among countries



**2 Achieve universal primary education**

**Goal 4**

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



**3 Promote gender equality and empower women**

**Goal 5**

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



**4 Reduce child mortality**



**5 Improve maternal health**

**Goal 3**

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



**6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**



**7 Ensure environmental sustainability**

**Goal 6**

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

**Goal 7**

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

**Goal 11**

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**Goal 12**

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**Goal 13**

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\*

**Goal 14**

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**Goal 15**

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



**8 Develop a global partnership for development**

**Goal 17**

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development





# SDGs will depend on improved wetland status – because of the link with water





# Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of wetlands



# Reversing land degradation, desertification, floods and droughts





# Sustainability of Water for All



# Resilience and equity in food production systems





# Reducing impacts of water-related disasters and making cities & settlements safe & resilient

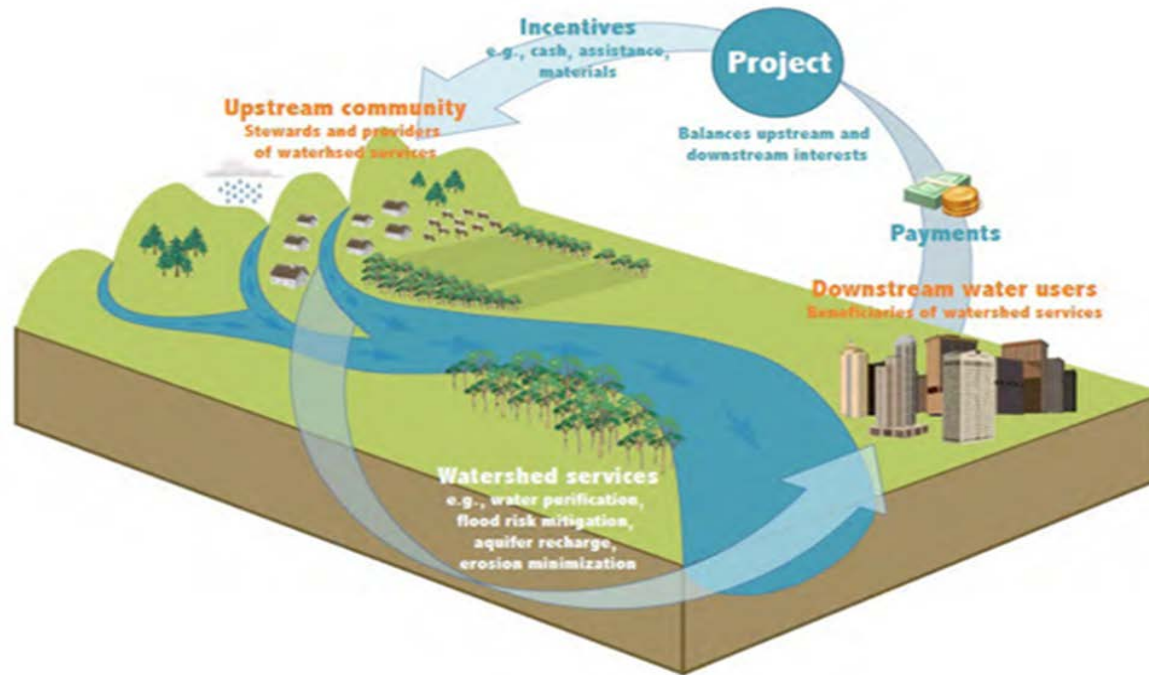


# SDGs best chance to mainstream wetlands in development





# Stimulate landscape scale investments in wetlands as natural infrastructure; connecting across sectors




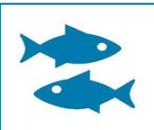
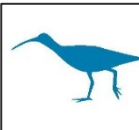










# But.....





# Wetlands, Ramsar Strategy & SDGs

## : some recognition, many gaps

|                            |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|                            | Goal 2   | Goal 6   | Goal 11  | Goal 12  | Goal 13  | Goal 14  | Goal 15  |
| Specific Wetland Targets ? |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Wetland Indicators?        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Ramsar SP Goals/ targets?  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Summary based on analysis together with by Chris Dickens, IMWI

# Connecting sectors for integrated approach



# What's needed to make a big step?

A unique opportunity to raise the profile of wetlands

Ramsar Convention network has body of knowledge & experience as well as political access:

- **Coordinated lobby on SDG texts prior to the summit** – addressing the gaps in targets and indicators on wetlands
- **Press for financing systems** that intertwine investments for environment with development
- **Catalyse action for wetlands linked to SDGs** globally, regionally and nationally → through partnerships, dialogue and capacity building; use of Ramsar guidance



# *Could the SDGs help save wetlands?*

## **It's up to us....**



***" Keep up with us, Rafferty . . we're not talking about passing the budget,  
we're talking about passing the BUCK. "***

# Muchas gracias!

